



United States Department of
Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation
Service

North Carolina
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Conservation e-Connections

DSWC One of 38 National Recipients of CCPI Grant

USDA awarded nearly \$5 million through the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), a voluntary program that provides competitive grants to foster the conservation partnership. The NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation was awarded \$150,000 for a Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA) in the 17 county High Rock Lake Watershed. In all 38 entities in 24 states received grants under CCPI.

FRPP Celebrates Funding Milestone With Orange SWCD



Gail Hughes, Orange SWCD, points out some of the conservation features on the Teer Dairy Farm to Dick Coombe, NRCS, during the FRPP celebration

On April 21, the NRCS, working with Orange County and the Orange SWCD held a celebration to mark the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) passing the \$10 million mark in funding. The event was held at the Teer Dairy farm in Orange County, a participant in FRPP. Speakers included, Dick Coombe, Regional Assistant Chief for NRCS, Barry Jacobs, Chair of the Orange County Commissioners, and Chris Hogan, Chair of the Orange SWCD.

FRPP has helped protect almost 10,000 acres of working farmland in North Carolina. Twenty counties have FRPP sites and 14 different entities have cooperated in delivering the program.

Envirothon

The 2006 North Carolina Envirothon was held at the Cedarrock Park in Alamance County on April 28-29. Enloe High School in Raleigh won this year's high school competition and will represent North Carolina at the Nationals in Manitoba Canada in late July. The middle school competition was won by a Wilson County home school team.

Enloe High School team from Raleigh, the Sub-Chronic Exposure, accepts the award for first place in the High School competition.



Bovender Family Honored as 2006 Conservation Farm Family

Tim and Nell Bovender, of Rutherford County, received the 2006 Conservation Farm Family award at ceremonies held on their farm June 2. The Bovenders operate a beef operation that included such conservation practices as prescribed grazing, fencing, watering tanks heavy use feed areas, gully stabilization, stream crossing, and buffers. The farm has been in the family since 1769 when Jack and William Flak received a grant from the Lord's Proprietor of Carolina.



CSP Contracts Announced by USDA

The FY 2006 Conservation Security Program (CSP) has announced the contracts that will be accepted for this year. Thirteen contracts worth \$140,000 in the first year are eligible for participation in North Carolina. Funding by Congress reduced the level of participation available in CSP. The state had only one watershed entirely in North Carolina, the Middle Neuse, and one shared with South Carolina, the Lower Pee Dee. Over 99 percent of the contracts offered nationally were for Tier 3 applications. All of those in North Carolina were Tier 2.

Incentives to Complete EQIP Practices Delayed by Energy Costs are Extended

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has extended the deadline for completing environmental projects to qualify for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) energy cost assistance to September 1, 2006.

The one-time payment adjustment applies only to participants who signed EQIP contracts in 2004 or

earlier and will only be paid for practices that are completed between March 1 and September 1, 2006. Projects must be completed before payments can be made. The 15 percent payment increase will focus on a select list of specific practices that have escalated in price by 20 percent or more because of rising energy costs and to practices most affected by increased costs in construction materials such as concrete, steel and plastic pipe.